

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 are presented below, with claims 1 and 3-6 pending. As shown below, claims 1 and 3-5 have been amended, and claim 2 has been canceled.

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for delivering a product to a delivery address specified from a first device, comprising:

search request means for connecting to a second device based on a telephone number entered from said first device and requesting a search of customer information;

storage means for storing customer information supplied from said second device;

search means for searching customer information stored in said storage means based on said telephone number input from said first device;

presenting means for presenting said search results supplied from said search means or said second device to said first device; and

controller means for controlling said presenting means, said search request means, and said search means, wherein if said search results are obtained from said search means said controller means causes said presenting means to present said search results supplied from said search means to said first device, and if said customer search information results are not obtained from said search means said controller means causes said search request means to connect to said second device and request a search of customer information and said controller means causes said presenting means to present said search results supplied from said second device to said first device; and

order issuing means for issuing an order for said product to a third device based on said order information input from said first device.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said customer information includes a name or an address.

4. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus for delivering a product to a delivery address specified from a first device, comprising:

searching stored customer information based on a telephone number input from said first device;

if said search results are obtained from said searching of stored customer information:

presenting said search results supplied to said first device;

if said search results are not obtained from said searching of stored customer information:

~~a search request step for connecting to a second device based on said telephone number entered from said first device and~~

~~requesting a search of customer information by said second device based on said telephone number;~~

storing customer information supplied from said second device,

~~a presenting step for presenting said search results supplied from said second device to said first device; and~~

~~an order issue step for~~ issuing an order for a product to a third device based on order information input from a said first device.

5. (Currently Amended) A recording medium holding a computer-readable program for an information processing apparatus for delivering a product to a delivery address specified from a first device, wherein said program comprises instructions for:

searching stored customer information based on a telephone number input from said first device;

if said search results are obtained from said searching of stored customer information:

presenting said search results supplied to said first device;

if said search results are not obtained from said searching of stored customer information:

~~a search request step for~~ connecting to a second device based on said telephone number, ~~entered from said first device and~~

requesting a search of customer information by said second device based on said telephone number;

storing customer information supplied from said second device,

~~a presenting step for~~ presenting said search results supplied from said second device to said first device; and

~~an issuing step for~~ issuing a purchase order for a product to a third device based on order information input from said first device.

6. (Original) An information processing system composed of a first information processing apparatus, a second information processing apparatus, a third information processing apparatus, and a fourth information processing apparatus,

wherein said first information processing apparatus comprises:

first sending means for entering the telephone number of the product delivery address and sending the telephone number to said second information processing apparatus,

acquisition means to acquire customer information corresponding to a telephone number presented from a second information device; and

second sending means for sending said product ordering information to said second information processing apparatus,

wherein said second information processing apparatus comprising:

search request means for connecting to said third information processing apparatus based on said telephone number entered from said first information processing apparatus and requesting a search of said customer information;

presenting means for presenting said search results supplied from said third information processing apparatus to said first information processing apparatus; and

order issuing means for issuing an order for said product to said fourth information processing apparatus based on said order information input from said first information processing apparatus,

wherein said third information processing apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing said customer information;

search means for searching said customer information stored in said storage means based on a search request from said second information processing apparatus; and

supply means for supplying said search results of said search means to said second information processing apparatus, and

wherein said fourth information processing apparatus comprising:

notification means for receiving the order for purchasing said product from said second information processing apparatus and notifying the second information processing apparatus that receipt of the purchasing order is complete.